

Serial No.

REMARKS


Entry of the amendments to the specification, claims and abstract before examination of the application is respectfully requested.

If there are any questions regarding this Preliminary Amendment or this application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

It is respectfully requested that, if necessary to effect a timely response, this paper be considered as a Petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response and shortages in other fees, be charged, or any overpayment in fees be credited, to the Account of Crowell & Moring, L.L.P., Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #2217/50147).

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

Please amend claims 9, 13, 14, 17, 18 and 19 as follows:

9. (Amended) A tubular casing according to [either] claim 7 [or 8] further comprising a tubular fibrous casing located within and co-extensive with said net-like tube, said fibrous casing comprising an inner liner for said net-like tube.

13. (Amended) A tubular casing according to [either] claim 11 [or 12] wherein the diameter of said net-like tube where said elastic threads become taut is smaller than the maximum diameter of said fibrous casing so that said circumferential and longitudinal threads press inwardly against said fibrous casing.

14. (Amended) A tubular casing according to [any one of claims] claim 9 [to 13] wherein said fibrous casing is folded flat with at [lest] least one pleat so that its width is reduced to fit within said net-like tube.

17. (Amended) A tubular casing according to claim 15 [or claim 16] wherein said circumferential thread is secured to said knitted tube such that it forms a continuous spiral along the length of said knitted tube, said longitudinal threads comprise interlocking loop stitches, each said loop stitch extending between said circumferential threads.

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18. (Amended) A tubular casing according to [any one of claims 15 to 17] claim 15 wherein said circumferential and longitudinal threads are secured to the outside surface of said knitted tube.

19. (Amended) A tubular casing according to [any one of claims 15 to 18] claim 15 wherein the circumferential thread comprises an elastic thread having a predetermined elastic limit, said circumferential threads are elastically extensible and that at said elastic limit said threads become inextensible.

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